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Vol. 46. No. 5 MAY 5th, 1945 Price 6d.

Special Articles This Month

South Australian News and Notes
Fertilizing Fruit Blossoms
Root Stocks for Fruit Trees
Goulburn Valley News and Notes
Tasmanian News and Notes
Vegetable Culture
Primary Producers' Organization
Apples and Pears in Sydney
Seasonable Orchard Work
West Australian Reports

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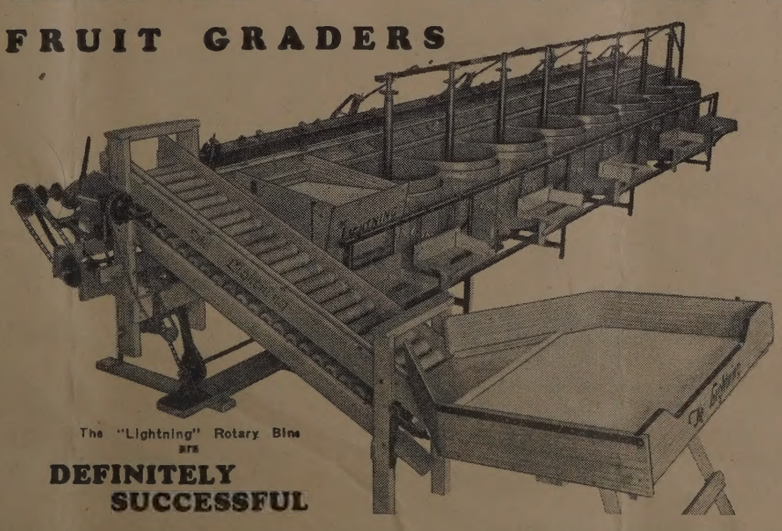

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Primary Producers' Organization

REFLECTIONS OF THE RECENT SYDNEY CONFERENCE. ENGLISH AND AUSTRALIAN ORGANISATIONS COMPARED. NEED FOR FRUITGROWERS TO ORGANISE ON AN AUSTRALIAN BASIS.

(By Geoffrey W. Brown, Merricks North, Victoria.)

A CONFERENCE convened by the Primary Producers' Council of Australia to discuss matters with a United Kingdom Farmers' delegation was held in Sydney on February 9 and 10.

On behalf of the fresh fruit industry of Australia, this conference was attended by Mr. Frank Moore, Mr. Vernon Clark and Mr. Geoffrey W. Brown, and by the Secretary of the New South Wales Apple and Pear Growers' Association. These delegates attended as observers only; the fruit industry has no representation on the Primary Producers' Council of Australia.

The conference, which was also attended by representatives from New Zealand, did not attempt to deal with the problems of any particular commodity—such as wool, butter or fruit; but after listening to a very broad and vigorous statement on the problems that farmers throughout the world will have to meet after the war; made by the Chairman of the British Delegation, agreed that National and International Organisation of Primary Producers was essential if these problems were to be tackled with knowledge and solved in a way that would maintain a stabilized and reasonable standard of living amongst farmers the world over.

In order that the importance of this conference can be appreciated it will be well to consider the types of organisation that exist, and the type envisaged in the future.

The British System: The British Delegation was impressive, not only because of the ability of its members, but mainly because of the authority with which they spoke. In the United Kingdom are three organisations, covering all farming activities; they are parallel bodies and are:

(1) The National Farmers' Union of England and Wales;

(2) The National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture of Scotland;

(3) The Ulster Farmers' Union of Northern Ireland.

It will be necessary to examine briefly only the first—the others are organised in the same way.

First of all it was claimed that the delegation spoke for 225,000 farmers, with a constantly growing membership.

The N.F.U. of England and Wales is organised on individual membership and covers all branches of farming activity; there are not separate organisations for different products. Membership of farmers is general in fairly small district branches; these in turn elect representatives to County Committees, where Commodity Committees exist and again in turn the County Committees elect representatives to the Headquarters' Committee. The Headquarters Committee—consisting of some 200 or so members, is divided into sub-committees covering each commodity produced.

The chairman of these committees form a General Policy Committee which can and does advise the Government on general agricultural policy. The President of the N.F.U. stated that their income was between £400,000 and £500,000 of which about £160,000 was allotted to the Central Office which maintained a complete staff—statistical and economic advisers, etc.

It will at once be seen that this represents a very powerful and vigorous body of opinion. It has provided practically the whole personnel of the War Agricultural Committee, and before the war provided practically the whole personnel of the Commodity Boards—Milk, Barley, Hops, Pig Products, etc., which by vote of the British farmers controlled the marketing of most of the farm produce of the United Kingdom.

The Australian System: In contradistinction to this type of organisation, the Australian Primary Producers' Council consisted of representatives appointed by Federal organisation—each covering a specific industry. Delegates represented the Graziers' Federal Council of Australia, the Australian Wool Producers' Federation, the Australian Dairy Farmers' Federation, the Australian Wheat Growers' Federation and the Federal Flax Growers' Committee.

Each of these bodies is composed of delegates from State organisations of the industries concerned, and cover those industries throughout Australia very thoroughly, though obviously the Association is much looser than under the British plan.

It seems that in Australia, where wide mixed farming is not very general, and where many industries are localised in different areas, e.g., wheat, the latter form of organisation is preferable. Indeed the basis for a sound and complete organisation of primary producers throughout the Commonwealth already exists. Although only the larger industries of wool, wheat and butter, and more recently flax, are represented on the Primary Producers' Council, very little effort would be needed to give Commonwealth representation to many other industries.

Dried and canned fruits, wine, etc., either have representative Federal bodies or, with strong State bodies in existence, could very soon achieve them.

What of Fresh Fruits?

The Apple and Pear industry built from 1930 onwards a very strong representative Australian Apple and Pear Council, which handled export matters only, but which achieved a degree of State unanimity and mutual trust which has rarely been surpassed. This Council sent its representatives to Ottawa, to Great Britain and to New Zealand, and by a series of voluntary agreements, in which it had full support from the Government, had begun to build a stabilized export market for Australian fruit.

In 1939 this Council was superseded by the Statutory Body — the Australian Apple and Pear Board to which delegates were appointed; but owing to the intervention of the war this body has never met. It must not be confused with the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, a wartime body only, set up under National Security Regulations.

At present no Federal Council exists for the fruit industry, and as far as Victoria is concerned, no fully representative body exists for the State.

The problems that all rural industry will have to face after the war are many and difficult; many of them indeed it is impossible to foresee at the present time. We have no real idea of what changes will be made in our social and economic structure — still less can we foresee what changes may occur in those countries with whom we will have to trade.

It seems probable that at first at any rate, most trading will be done by governmental agreements, and this will mean some Government control of farmers' commodities.

This position can be faced with equanimity if the Government bodies concerned can be advised by representatives who really represent their industry, and who know its problems, and who can be in such an authoritative position that they will be consulted by the Government Department concerned, and informed of governmental difficulties in reaching decisions.

This can be achieved in Victoria by beginning in a simple way: by loosely knitting together the various representative bodies of fruitgrowers throughout the State. The Cool Store Association, the Metropolitan Growers, the Northern Growers, Peninsula Orchardists' Central Association, Gippsland Fruit Marketing Association, Harcourt Growers, etc., into a Victorian Fruitgrowers' Council.

To begin with its constitution should be fairly loose, it must build on goodwill and not on hard and fast clauses, and it must by its sincerity convince growers' organisations in other States that a Federal Council is essential and not difficult of achievement.

Then as the State and Federal Councils begin to find their feet and to express coherent views of the needs and hopes of their industry let them concern themselves with such constitutional problems as may arise.

The need is very urgent. The world is taking a new shape before our eyes. The setting up of an international primary producers' conference, as suggested, the British farmers' delegation gives an opportunity for self expression to the farmers of the world that they have never had before.

Let us sink our little differences and build together to make the lot of those in the farms of Victoria and Australia, and perhaps the world brighter and happier in the years to come.

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NEWS OF THE MONTH

THE LATE PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

Friend of Mankind.

In the death of President Roosevelt, the United States loses its first citizen, and the world at large loses a loved friend. President Roosevelt was the friend of humanity. We add our tribute of respect to his memory. History will place on record his labours to assist farmers out of the dire chaos of the last depression, and to bring back prosperity to the people of his country and to the world at large.

THE WAR.

Dramatic events have occurred since our last issue—the tremendous victories of the Allies in Germany and Italy: the junction of the American, British and Soviet armies, the fall of Berlin, the ignominious death of Mussolini the reported death of Hitler, the collapse of German and Fascist Italian forces in Italy, the opening of the San Francisco Conference, and the continued successful pressure on Japanese forces in the several theatres of war.

Surely the time is close at hand for the collapse of the entire Nazi regime in Germany, and the nearby occupied countries.

The horrors of the concentration camps has brought home to people the unplumbed depths of the bestiality which is inherent in all the Nazi-Fascist doctrine.

Soon the full forces of the Allied Powers will be turned against the Japanese Fascist aggressors, and it is to be hoped that the time will not be very far distant when peace will come again to this stricken world.

We shall need all our fortitude and resolution to overcome our enemies, to succour those in need, and to prepare for a peace built on justice, good faith and the will to think daringly in the building of a world in which there shall be the full exercise of the "four freedoms," with equality of opportunity for all.

UNIFORM RAILWAY GAUGE.

A report has been presented by Sir Harold Clapp setting forth the programme for the unification of the Australian railway gauges—a necessary postwar work. The first stage of the plan will cost over £70,000,000; and for the completed programme, which would extend over a period of years, the cost will be not less than £140,000,000.

Considering what it has been possible to spend on war, this figure will not be deemed too high for a peace time enterprise.

APPLE PROCESSING.

Products Valued at £1,500,000 This Season.

From the processing of Apples in Australia this season, products estimated at more than £1,500,000 are expected.

The Food Control Department states that processing plants in Tasmania, Western Australia, South Australia and N.S.W. and Victoria, would use 2,576,800 bushels of Apples, valued at more than £500,000 for the manufacture of Apple products.

The quantities expected were:—Apple sauce, 9,547,797 lb.; solid pack canned Apples, 12,320,000 lb.; dried Apples, 5,600,000 lb.; Apple juice, 2,000,000 gallons; Apple butter, 406,620 lb.; Apple and Black Currant juice, 100,000 gallons.

APPLE EXPORT.

The Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Frost) who represents the Apple-growing electorate of Franklin (Tasmania) recently expressed pleasure in that Apple exports had been resumed. It had been hoped, he said, that 1,000,000 bushels would be shipped to the United Kingdom this season, but the refrigerated space was needed for meat and other products.

The total so far provided for is 300,000 cases, of which 75,000 cases will go from Western Australia, and the balance from Tasmania.

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APPLE AND PEAR ACQUISITION.

Appreciation in W.A. and Tasmania.

BENEFITS ARISING from the acquisition of Apple and Pears in Western Australia and Tasmania were recently set out in statement published in W.A. as follows:—

"Acquisition of the Apple and Pear crop as a wartime measure" was introduced by the Menzies Government in 1940 to meet the situation resulting from the loss of overseas markets, and was enacted at the specific request of growers throughout Australia. It applies now only in Tasmania and W.A., both of which have surplus production not absorbable under present conditions. Control is a year-to-year measure.

"W.A. now has a production of over 1,500,000 bushels annually, but consumption is about 650,000 bushels; factories utilise 300,000 bushels; exports to the Eastern States represent 200,000 cases; and this year, for the first time since 1940, a shipment of 36,000 bushels—Jonathans and Granny Smiths—is being made to England. Our surplus this year will be reduced to a minimum.

"Control has been effective because it has provided growers with a guaranteed living enabling them to maintain their orchards for postwar trade; the Board has a firm policy of providing the best quality to the public at reasonable prices. **Apples have been the cheapest fresh food commodity available to the people.**

"Without regulated marketing there would have been a scramble for markets, periods of glut and shortage. Speculation would have resulted, together with the cornering of supplies and storage. Losses and orchard deterioration would have resulted.

"It is not generally appreciated that the Board has ensured that liberal supplies are donated to hospitals and charitable institutions. It has been said that, as there is a surplus, fruit prices should be lower. These urgings take no account of actual physical costs involved, transport and labour difficulties."

The opinion further expressed that after the war there will be need for at least a period of years of control until there is refrigerated shipping available to lift the surplus.

TASMANIA SUPPORTS ACQUISITION.

THE IMPORTANCE of the protection afforded by the Apple and Pear Acquisition plan was emphasised by the Minister for Repatriation (Mr. Frost) at a meeting of the Kingborough (Tas.) Council recently. The Minister said that while all the available fruit of the present harvest was required, it was impossible to handle the full quantity grown. Major problems were manpower and shipping. To handle the full crop it would be necessary to release up to 5,000 men from the fighting forces. There was insufficient shipping available to convey the fruit to the mainland. Taking the National view it was essential that compensation to growers should continue.

Speaking in support, Cr. Watson said that if the Acquisition Plan was not in existence, only 5 per cent. of Tasmanian orchards would be cultivated. The system of planned marketing must continue.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA.

Perth (10/4/45): Mr. H. R. Powell, Supt. of Horticulture, W.A. Dept. of Agriculture, has made available the following report for the month of March:—

Weather conditions experienced during the month have been hot and dry. Towards the end of the month, good rains were experienced in the Great Southern and South-Western districts. These ranged up to 270 points in the Mt. Barker district and down to 104 points in the Bridgetown district.

In the Kalamunda district only 30 points were recorded and in the Mundaring area 60 points.

Prior to the rains the condition of Apple and Pear trees was serious. fruit size had been restricted and the late varieties including Yates, were practically at a standstill with very little chance of full-size development. The good rains have ensured that the Granny Smith crop, at any rate, will be a commercial success. On the other hand, the rain may have been too late to improve Yates in many districts.

The quality of Apples submitted during the month was variable. Highly coloured Jonathans had a tendency to break down and Cleos. showed more pit than usual. Generally speaking, the quality of the fruit has not been so good as it should have been had the season proved normal.

The weather also, has had a serious effect on non-irrigated citrus and it is expected that when good rains occur, a considerable amount of splitting will take place.

The grape vines also, have been affected by the hot dry weather. The shortage of moisture resulted in the stressing of the vines and in some instances forced the ripening of the fruit before the berries had reached their full development. The consequent lack in juice content will be reflected in the quantity of wine obtained this year.

Currants and Sultanas have been affected and both quantity and quality have suffered.

The incidence of pests and diseases has not been severe, but in certain districts the prevalence of Apple curculio has caused some concern to growers. Depredations of birds have caused heavy losses in Apple orchards and varieties such as Yates and Doughertys have suffered to a large extent.

SOUTH AFRICAN ORANGES.

Owing to the severe reduction in exports, South African citrus growers were faced with severe gluts of Oranges. There was much wastage even under the control plan which is operating. Growers' Associations, while co-operating with the wholesale and retail trade, felt that the margins between growers' returns and retail prices were too great, extra efforts were needed; finally the growers' organisations opened their own depots, where Oranges were sold at lower prices than in fruit shops.

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Cover Crops

VALUE OF GREEN MANURING — TYPES OF PLANTS USED.

IN RESPONSE to a request for information relative to types of plants sown for green manuring, the Chief Horticulturist, S. Aust. Dept. of Agric. (Mr. A. G. Strickland) has made available the following interesting notes from two of his officers. Regarding cover crops for the non-irrigated Hills districts, Mr. E. Leishman, manager, Blackwood Experiment Orchard, writes:

There are many kinds of plants which may be used for cover crops. In the hills districts, Peas, Rye Corn, Tick Beans and Barley are generally sown. Legumes have advantages over cereal crops because of their power of adding nitrogen to the soil, and when ploughed under, decompose more rapidly. Rye Corn has the distinct advantage of growing more rapidly during the winter months, consequently there is a greater bulk to plough under in early spring. A mixture of Peas and Rye are a very good combination. The Rye stalks provide a natural trellis for the Peas to climb on, and they grow ever so much better than when sprawling on the ground. Tick Beans grow well, and are one of the easiest crops to handle when ploughing under. The quantities of seed generally planted is:—

Peas 1½ bush. per acre.
Rye corn 1½ bush. per acre.
Tick Beans 80 lb. per acre.
Mixture of Peas and Rye ¾ bush. of each.

The seed is usually broadcast as the ordinary seed drill does not go close enough to the tree, consequently only a narrow strip is sown. Two cwt. of superphosphate per acre is the general dressing of fertilizer; this can also be broadcast and harrowed in.

Mr. O. E. Halliday, Manager, Berri (River Murray) Experimental Orchard, states that for sandy and sandy-loam soils, Rye, Wheat, Peas, Mustard and Melilotus are best; for loams and heavy loams: Barley, Wheat, Oats, Rye, Peas, Tick Beans, Melilotus, Mustard, Lupins and Vetches.

For clay soils (retentive of moisture), Tick Beans, Barley, Oats, Fenugreek, Lupins, Vetches.

Citrus and Apricot Trees.

Where citrus and Apricot trees have been growing for many years, and where clean cultivation has been continuously practised, considerable difficulty occurs in obtaining a satisfactory germination of green crops.

A good dressing of stable manure should be applied if at all possible. Failing that, Rye will be found the best crop to commence with, followed by barley, thence Mustard or Peas. Although legumes are preferred, as cover crops; where these have been found to be unsatisfactory, every effort should be made to establish a bulky crop, rather than persist in trying out leguminous crops supplying only light yields.

Early maturity, plus bulk, is the most desirable feature with green manure crops. This enables the cover crop to be ploughed under early enough to allow the constituents to be available at bud-burst.

GREEN MANURING IN ORCHARDS

Western Australian Growers Derive Benefit from Cover Crops.

(By T. C. Miller, Acting Assistant Supt. of Horticulture, W.A.)

Fruitgrowers in Western Australia are becoming increasingly conscious of the benefits to be derived from the growing and ploughing in of winter green manure crops. Those who, in the past, have made a regular practice of sowing cover crops each year, have been able to observe by the increased yields and vigour, the maintainance of, and even improvement in soil fertility obtained.

Concerning varieties grown, due to the added advantage of the fixation of atmospheric nitrogen, legumes are most widely planted, the New Zealand Blue Lupin (Lupinus augustifolius D.C.) being the most popular. Tick beans, and field peas are of importance as well, with vetches, oats, and mixtures of peas and oats being grown to a lesser extent. Often the natural weed growth is encouraged by Autumn top-dressing, and as an early start is usually obtained with the first rains, a good top growth can be depended on.

The annual weeds comprise mainly Cape Weed (Cryptostemma calendulaceum), Hop and Suckling Clovers (Trifolium spp.), Trefoils (Medicago spp.), and such annual grasses as Brome or Spear grass (Bromus and Serrafalcus spp.), Annual Veldt (Ehrhata spp.), Silver grass (Vulpia spp.), Barley grass (Hordeum spp.), and Wild oats (Avena spp.).

Seed Inoculation.

Regarding the sowing of the crop, experiments carried out by the Department have shown the necessity of inoculating the seed of legumes with a nitrifying bacteria prior to planting. For this purpose, the Plant Pathologist has made selections of the most suitable bacteria for use with the different types of leguminous crops, and these are available to growers upon application to the Department.

The usual rates of sowing are given in the following table:—

Variety.	lb. per acre.
Lupins	100-140
Field Peas	85-100
Tick Beans	100-140
Oats	60-80

As early as seasonal conditions permit in the Autumn, the seed is drilled or broadcast one way throughout the orchards, and the allowance of super. is applied. It is the custom to use the nitrogenous fertilizers now available for the Spring dressing.

FERTILIZING FRUIT BLOSSOMS.

The Question of Compatibility.

A Quick Test for Fertility.

MANY PLANT SPECIES fail to form fruit when the flowers are self pollinated. They are self-incompatible. This raises no serious economic difficulties in sexually reproduced crops such as Radish or Clover, where each plant is a different individual. But in vegetatively propagated plants, such as Cherries, many Plums, Apples and Pears, where all trees of the same variety are parts of one individual they will fail to pollinate each other. Pollen, to be effective, must come from another variety. Pollination leads to the penetration of the style by the pollen-tube and is followed by the fertilization of the egg cell situated at the base of the pistil by the male nucleus in the pollen. Any factors that affect pollen-tube growth are therefore important in fruit fertility. In fruit trees incompatibility is one of the main factors.

Furthermore, the work of Mr. M. B. Crane and his colleagues at the John Innes Horticultural Institution has shown that all varieties of Sweet Cherry and many varieties of Plums fall into incompatible groups, such that any pollination between varieties within a group is incompatible, but any pollination between varieties from different groups is compatible. This behaviour they found, is due to the control of pollen-tube growth by a system of incompatibility genes, a system which is similar to that first found by the American geneticist East, for Tobacco, in 1925. These genes are designated S_1, S_2, S_3. There are many different S genes among the members of a species (more than 100 have been found in Clover) but each member has only two, e.g., S_1S_2, while the pollen, being a germ cell, has only one, e.g., S_1 or S_2.

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Extract from "BETTER FRUIT," by Dr. R. L. Webster, Entomologist, State College of Washington, Pullman: CODLING MOTH COVER SPRAYS—"Ever since the imposition of an arsenic tolerance in 1926, and even before that time, investigators have been testing other materials which may be used in place of lead arsenate. Following all these intensive and extensive investigations lead arsenate appears to have certain inherent qualities which place this material foremost as an insecticide for codling moth control."
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Q'ld.—Buzacott's Ltd., Adelaide Street, Brisbane.
S.A.—Silbert, Sharp & Bishop Ltd., Rundle St. E., Adelaide.
W.A.—Westralian Farmers' Ltd., 569 Wellington St., Perth.
Tas.—SOUTHERN—Messrs. William Crosby & Co. Pty. Ltd., 119 Collins St., Hobart.
NORTHERN—Messrs. William Crosby & Co. Pty. Ltd., 32 Charles Street, Launceston. Depots: Exeter, West Tamar; also at Devonport and Latrobe.
N.Z.—Plasey, McInnes Ltd., Box 1114, G.P.O., Auckland.

If the pollen and the pistil have the same S gene in common, then the tube growth is inhibited. Thus all self-pollinations fail, and all cross-pollinations between varieties with the same S genes fail, but pollinations between varieties differing in either one or two S genes succeed. This inhibition of pollen-tube growth is caused by a chemical reaction initiated by the S genes; work is in progress to determine the nature of the reaction, but it is already clear that it corresponds closely with the blood group incompatibilities in animals.

Incompatibility reactions vary in efficiency from species to species; if the efficiency is high, pollen germination is inhibited, if the efficiency is low, the pollen-tubes may penetrate the pistil but they are arrested near the base of the style. Like all chemical reactions the efficiency is increased by an increase in temperature. The amount of increase for a rise in temperature of 10 deg. C. also varies from species to species but in general the effect of temperature is greater here than with other chemical reactions that are concerned with pollen-tube growth. This results in an accentuation of the difference in growth rate between compatible and incompatible tubes. Compatible tubes are accelerated by a high temperature, whereas incompatible tubes are retarded more strongly by a high temperature.*

This temperature effect has now been of use in determining incompatibility relations by the examination of pollen-tubes of plants in which the inhibition reaction is not strong enough at normal temperatures for a decisive differentiation of the two types of tubes. For Cherries and Pears, flowers are cut from the tree, pollinated and incubated at 30 deg. C. A rapid examination of the style 20 hours later shows, by the extent of pollen-tube growth, whether the combination is compatible or not. Thus we have a quick laboratory method of testing the incompatabilities of fruit varieties which could only be discovered previously by the laborious technique of cross-pollinating trees and observing the fruit set. This method is therefore of the greatest value not only in determining the properties of fruit trees which have to be recorded for use in all orchard planting programmes, but also in the arranging of the many genetic experiments that have to be carried out with incompatible plants.—"Monthly Science Notes."

*Lewis, Proc., Roy. Soc.: 131, 1942.

SPRAY RESIDUE.

The following information was recently conveyed to Sth. Aust. growers by the Chief Horticulturist, Mr. A. G. Strickland:—

The delivery to the markets of Apples and Pears carrying excessive spray residue has once again come to the notice of the Central Board of Health.

Growers and packing houses are doubtless aware of Health Regulations prohibiting the sale of foodstuffs containing more than 0.01 grains of arsenic trioxide per lb. and that if health inspectors commence taking samples of Apples and Pears in the market for analysis, considerable repercussions may be brought about.

It is urged, therefore, that growers and packers ensure that no fruit showing visible spray residue is delivered for sale in the markets.

If each individual realises his responsibilities in this regard, he will help to avert the trouble which must arise if spray-marked fruit continues to appear in the markets.

USE THE BEST FOR THE BEST RESULTS!
THE RIGHT MATERIAL FOR PLANT DISEASE PREVENTION AND CONTROL
ESA BLUESTONE GUARANTEED 99% PURITY
FOR PREPARATION OF BORDEAUX SPRAYS
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Tasmanian News and Notes

WEATHER AFFECTS CROPS — ZINC FOR DIEBACK — EXPORT OVERSEAS AND INTERSTATE — STATE FRUIT BOARD ELECTIONS.

(By Our Correspondent.)

HARVESTING in the Tamar Valley and other northern areas is nearing an end and the season has on the whole been rather disappointing. Moth took a severe toll and in some places spot was in evidence.

The weather through the later part of the picking season was good and caused few delays. The cool stores in the district are now filling up with late varieties and the drying works are still working so there should not be much waste fruit in the north of the State.

In the south the season has been very peculiar, the early part was cold and windy, when we usually get it warm and the early fruit was late in maturing, then in April it warmed up and the ground got dry and growth of the fruit stopped and premature ripening of the late varieties became apparent and the leaves dropped nearly a month earlier than usual. Whether this will be detrimental to the keeping qualities of the fruit remains to be seen. There is a rush of work on till the end of April as another shipment of 112,000 cases is being got ready for overseas, the varieties include S.P.M., Cleo., Grannies and Sturmers, and as the interstate shipments are being packed at the same time, also fruit for cool stores and factories, the growers are having a very trying time. It is now apparent that the entire usable crop will be required to meet all demands.

It is to be hoped that the Marketing Board will not try to hold the cool-stored fruit too late into the season as it is probable that the abnormal season may affect its keeping qualities. The shortage of potassic fertilizers is also said to be detrimental to keeping qualities.

It is hoped that a higher percentage of potash will be included in the ration of fertilizer for next season.

Zinc for Dieback.

Experiments are being conducted with zinc in cases of dieback where the limb begins to look unhealthy at the top and the bark turns yellow with stunted leaves. It is too early yet to say definitely whether this treatment will benefit these cases, but in some instances that I have seen there appears to be an improvement during the second year. It is probable that there is more than one cause for the condition, but it is certainly worth while testing it out over a lot of plots in various districts as the trouble appears to be on the increase.

The dry spell through March and April has been very detrimental to the growth of cover crops, and in many instances it looks as though they will be a failure as the weather will get cold from now on.

I noticed in the March "Fruit World" an article by our Chief Horticulturist on green manuring, which is well worth reading and acting upon.

I notice that Messrs. Frank Moore and G. W. Brown were among the delegates to the Sydney conference of Primary Producers held recently. I think the fruit industry is important enough to have its own subsection of any board or body formed. It is quite possible that this season's shipments to Britain will be repeated next year by the Apple and Pear Marketing Board, and the Federal Government may handle the exports permanently after the war, **but even if it does the Australian fruitgrowers should have some organisation to express their views.**

The election to fill vacancies on the State Fruit Board takes place on May 15, by postal vote. There is one vacancy for the north which the retiring member (Mr. Bulman) will again occupy as he is returned unopposed.

In the south there were two vacancies and five candidates, both retiring members (Mr. R. H. Thompson and Mr. D. Calvert) seek re-election.

The feature of the month has been the visit of the Governor-General. The weather held good for the various functions and trips and everything appears to have gone very nicely.

PRODUCERS SEEK REVIEW OF TARIFFS.

The State Fruit Board has asked the Minister for Agriculture (Mr. Madden) to endeavour to ensure that primary producers' interests are not sacrificed in the interests of secondary production when revision of tariff and reciprocal trade with other countries is being discussed.

Favourable revision of tariff and reciprocal trade agreements with other countries were essential if Australia was to increase or even maintain oversea trade in primary production, stated the Board.

In reply to the Board, Mr. Madden said the Government was anxious to ensure that the interests of the primary producers were fully protected in any revision of tariff and reciprocal trade arrangements.

BLACKBIRD DESTRUCTION.

The State Fruit Board has decided to support the Stone and Berry Fruits Board in framing a resolution to the Dept. of Agriculture asking that a further sum be made available to pay for rewards for the destruction of blackbirds and eggs.

The Secretary (Mr. A. J. Honey) reported that to March 31 this year 65,147 birds and 18,921 eggs had been destroyed for the outlay of £1,786/12/-. Claims showed that the blackbird destruction of small fruit was becoming less.

STATE FRUIT BOARD.

At a meeting of the State Fruit Board, at Hobart recently, a proposal that an area in the Weld and Arve districts in the Huon be set aside as a timber reserve for fruit cases was deferred, pending investigation.

The question of the reconstruction of the Port Huon and Port Cygnet wharves was deferred to allow the chairman of the Board confer with the Huon Municipal Association.

The Board decided to support representations to the Dept. of Agriculture from Spreyton orchardists who had sustained losses as a result of recent hailstorms, and sought compensation.

Mr. J. R. Abel said it was planned to use the damaged Apples in Apple juice processing factories in the South and the Tamar. Letters from growers to the Board reported varying percentages up to 90 per cent. of loss as a result of hailstorms. A committee had been set up in the Spreyton district to deal with the problem.

VICTORIAN POTATO CROP.

In its report, issued April 9, 1945, the Victorian Dept. of Agriculture states that Potato contracts received to date by the Department for the year 1944-45 cover an area of approximately 94,762 acres planted by 8,926 growers.

It is estimated that the total crop will be not less than 290,000 tons, of which probably 50,000 tons will not leave the farms. It is not yet possible to assess the volume of No. 1 grade tubers that will be included in these figures.

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TASMANIA: A. G. Webster & Sons, Hobart. Henry Jones & Co., Launceston.

WEST AUSTRALIA: Westralian Farmers Ltd., Wellington St., Perth.

Goulburn Valley News and Notes

(By Our Correspondent.)

APRIL has been a quiet month for district news. All varieties of fruits, including Grapes and Tomatoes are practically finished. Hot, dry, droughty conditions still prevail, and conditions generally from an agricultural point of view could not be worse: there are no reserves of fodder in the country: and chaff and oats are almost unprocurable. These facts are causing much anxiety, and an early break in the weather is urgently needed. All stock on dry areas are in very poor condition, and it is feared even if we get early rains, with a cold snap many thousands of stock will die.

Canneries completed canning operations about the middle of the month, which marked the finish of the season for the Ardmona cannery at Mooroopna, and the S.P.C. at Shepparton.

At Mooroopna the employees were entertained at afternoon tea and thanked for their assistance during a successful and difficult period.

The Union Secretary, in responding, spoke of the pleasant weeks that had been enjoyed, and the companionship of all the visiting helpers. The hostel girls have all left to return to their homes.

The S.P.C. at Shepparton has also finished, and the workers returned to their homes. The winding up was celebrated on a Wednesday night at the Social Club Ball, when over 600 persons attended a very pleasant function.

Record Price for S.P.C. Shares.

A record price was brought for Shepparton Preserving Co's shares at the Shepparton mart on Friday, when a large parcel was offered in the estate of the late D. J. Colgan. The sale created widespread interest, and there was a large attendance of buyers.

Ordinary £1 shares, which have been earning a 15 per cent. dividend for some years, brought £4/8/- per share, and 32/6 was paid for 6 per cent. preference shares.

Bidding was brisk, and a quick clearance effected. The ordinary shares, fully paid, were sold in eight parcels of 5 to 20 at 88/-; 10 parcels from 10 to 50, at 87/-; and one parcel of 470 shares at 87/-.

A remarkable feature of the sale was that the total number of shares was secured by local orchardists, indicating the confidence the purchasers have in the company's stability and its prospects for the future.

Tomato Seed.

Production at Shepparton East.

Mr. J. D. Van Staveren for the past eight years has been producing seeds and seedlings of Tomatoes: last year, with a special gang of 20 Italian prisoners-of-war (who extracted Tomato seed by hand under water), he managed treatment of 250 cases a day.

Government tests for purity and germination were so high that Mr. Van Staveren has been entrusted with a large proportion of the Commonwealth Vegetable Seed Committee's requirements from the 1944-1945 season's output in the following varieties:—

Pearson's American, Tatura Dwarf Globe, and Tatinter, the latter being Selection B, which was derived from Burwood Wonder and Intermediate. Tatinter, which possesses a tougher skin than Tatura Dwarf Globe, is expected to supersede Dwarf Globe in the Goulburn Valley.

During the season which is now nearing completion, it is expected that 10,000 cases of the three varieties will be treated by Mr. Van Staveren, with the help of three men trained by him, the average output being 450 cases per day.

The accomplishment has been made possible by the introduction of the Slucie system, plans and specifications for which were supplied by Mr. R. S. Harper, of the Tatura Research Farm.

Mother seed for the growing of all Tomatoes for seed is saved from plants showing the highest possible degree of trueness to type, such selections (which are pegged) being made by Mr. R. S. Harper, B.Ag.Sc., and Mr. Basil Krone, of the Department of Agriculture, and Mr. Van Staveren.

The Olive Industry.

Mr. Peacoulokis and his family have recently purchased a 200-acre property in the Toolamba district.

It is his intention to plant the whole of the 200 acres to Olives, and having already established his nurseries, the planting out of the trees will take place in May, under irrigation and intense culture. Some return is expected in six or seven years.

When the trees reach production stage, Mr. Peacoulokis, who is of Greek nationality, intends to erect his own plant for the crushing of the Olives and the extraction of the oil.

In order to encourage the growing of Olives in this district, he is making trees available to those who may wish to enter this field of enterprise.

THE CITRUS INDUSTRY.

A long range policy for the citrus industry is earnestly advocated by Mr. R. J. Benton (Citrus Expert, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric.) Citrus Orchards, he said, were changing hands rapidly in N.S.W.; there was a shortage of approved nursery stock. The industry would be building up trouble for the future unless growers' organisations set about planning now. One way to effect savings in production costs was that of co-operative purchase of supplies. Production should be centred as far as possible in areas known to be suitable by reason of soil, climate, etc. We should avoid the mistakes made after the last war.

An Apple on the Tree is worth a bushel on the Ground

"CLING-SPRAY"

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Stops Preharvest Drop

Simply mix the contents of one 4 oz. bottle of "Cling-Spray" in 100 gallons of water, and spray in the normal manner, when the first few of the maturing fruits are observed to fall.

PACKED 24 BY 4 oz. BOTTLES PER CARTON

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SOUTH AUSTRALIAN NEWS AND NOTES

Official Reports and Notes of the South Australian Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Association.

SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FRUITGROWERS' AND MARKET GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the executive committee meeting of the above Association was held on March 23, 1945. Mr. R. A. Cramond, President of the Association presided over the meeting, which was attended by the following Committee men. Messrs. H. B. Robson, J. B. Randell, G. H. Schultz, C. Ridley, J. D. Yateman, O. Esselbach, J. Turner, C. L. Winser, C. J. Pitt, W. J. Bishop, R. B. Pritchard, B. Pfeifer, N. T. Hobbs. Mr. A. G. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist was also present.

Apologies were received from Messrs. A. R. Martin, M. G. Hannaford, L. J. Wicks and A. O. Peterson.

Correspondence was read and dealt with as follows:—

The Director of Emergency Road Transport wrote in reply to the Association's request that Potatoes be permitted by Road Transport to the Adelaide Market. The reply stated that approval could not be given for transport by road for this season, as from investigations made, rail transport was satisfactory and that losses in transit were infinitesimal. Further letters from Vegetable Growers' Association of N.S.W., and the Secretary of the Wheat Growers' Federation regarding organisation of the Vegetable Industry in Australia. Points raised in both these letters were fully discussed, but the meeting reiterated its decision of the previous meeting that the matter be handled through the S.A. Chamber of Rural Industry to which correspondence had been referred. Mr. C. L. Winser moved: "That the matter of Federal Organisation of Vegetable Growers be left in the hands of the Association Delegates, and the Chamber of Rural Industry." Seconded Mr. G. H. Schultz. Carried.

Mr. W. J. Bishop stated that as he was on the Postwar Reconstruction Committee of the Chamber, he asked that copies of correspondence be made available to him.

Circular was received from Town Clerk of St. Peters, advising that a further meeting of delegates to discuss locking of River Torrens at selected locations would be held in the St, Peters Council Chamber, March 23, 1945.

General Business.

The Secretary reported that he, in company with Mr. S. E. Avery, Deputy Market Representative on the Melbourne Market had attended a meeting of Pea Growers in the Pt. Germein and Baroota District on Wednesday, March 21. He stated that 27 growers had attended the meeting and all were very enthusiastic about the necessity for organisation of the Pea industry in the district, and a unanimous resolution was carried that Pea growers in and around Pt. Germein form a section of the Association. Mr. W. J. Bishop moved "That the new Section be welcomed to the Association and a letter of congratulations be forwarded to the new Section." Seconded Mr. O. Esselbach, Carried.

Secretary also reported that a meeting of vegetable growers was held on March 16, to reorganise the Vegetable Section of the Association. Unfortunately, the meeting was not very well attended, but preliminary arrangements for the reorganisation were put in the hands of a Provisional Committee.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Cherry Section: Mr. W. J. Bishop reported that although there was nothing to report concerning Cherries, growers had the opportunity of meeting Mr. S. E. Avery, the Deputy Melbourne Market representative during his visit to Adelaide, when matters associated with Cherry marketing in Melbourne were discussed.

Fruitgrowers' Society: Mr. W. J. Bishop stated that trading was very satisfactory. The reconstruction of the recently acquired premises was going along satisfactorily and the Committee of Management anticipated going on with another portion of the job as soon after May as possible. The present portion being renovated should be ready for occupation by the end of May. He said it was suggested that the society register as a Co-operative Packing Shed and process the produce of growers who were not serviced by District Packing Sheds.

Apple and Pear Section: Mr. C. L. Winser reported that members of the Committee had met Mr. L. G. Wills, Sydney Market representative in Adelaide, during the week, and Mr. Wills had assured members that Apple sales were satisfactory in Sydney, but advised careful attention to value, grading and packing of Apples. Mr. Winser stressed the necessity for growers making available to the Committee reliable statistics as to Apple stocks.

Celery Section: Mr. C. Ridley reported on discussion with Mr. Avery re Celery. The method of price fixing of Celery had come in for considerable discussion, as the Section considered that the present method was not acceptable and had been suggested that Celery prices be determined on a weight basis.

Citrus Section: Mr. O. Essalbach stated that there was very little to report other than that new season citrus was now starting to show a little colour.

Onkaparinga Branch: Mr. L. B. Pfeifer reported immature digging on account of unseasonable weather, and growers may lose acres of Potatoes through grub infestation. He stated that Australian Potato Committee had made arrangements to store Potatoes at Woodside as from March 26 next.

Stone Fruit Section: Mr. H. B. Robson reported that the stone fruit season was now finished.

Hills Cauliflower Section: Mr. R. B. Pritchard reported that Cauliflowers were still in short supply, but the market satisfactory.

Apple Section: Mr. A. G. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist, said that it was possible that classes for fruit packing for school children and adults (when required) would be started within the next few weeks, when prizes would be allotted to the winners by the S.A. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industry. Certificates of competency could possibly be also provided in the following year. This matter was discussed freely, and it was resolved that the Association commend the action taken by the State Department of Agriculture.

Federal Potato Advisory Committee: Mr. C. J. Pitt reported that a meeting of the Federal Advisory Committee had been called for April 24 and 25 in Sydney, to discuss Potato problems. He stated that the Secretary of the Association had submitted a plan for postwar reconstruction of the Potato industry in Australia, and this plan had been favourably received. He suggested that the Secretary be given permission to travel to Sydney in order to attend the Federal Advisory meeting, and further outline the scheme to the Committee. As Mr. Stuart would be in Sydney for a conference on April 26 and 27, it would only mean him going to Sydney a few days earlier. Mr. O. Essalbach moved: "That permission be given to the Secretary to travel to Sydney and place his views on postwar reconstruction on the Potato industry before the Federal Potato Advisory Committee. Seconded Mr. W. J. Bishop. Carried.

Mr. C. J. Pitt reported on a field day recently held on his property when numerous Potato diggers were demonstrated. Despite the weather, the day had been most satisfactory, and he thanked all growers for their interest and attendance. Mr. N. T. Hobbs said that a field day would be held on his property at Inman Valley on April 14, 1945, at 2 p.m., when visitors would have the opportunity of viewing a modern irrigation plant. He extended an open invitation to any member of the Association to attend.

A meeting of the executive of the above Association was held on April 27, 1945, 10.30 a.m.

Mr. R. A. Cramond, President of the Association presided over the meeting, which was attended by the following Committeemen:—Messrs. R. B. Pritchard, H. A. Robson, W. H. Ind, H. N. Wicks, W. R. Clisby, J. Turner, L. J. Wicks, O. Esselbach, L. Winser, A. E. Brealey, M. G. Hannaford, L. B. Pfeiffer, W. Wye, W. J. Burdett, W. J. Bishop, J. D. Yeatman, G. H. Schultz, A. O. Petersen, C. H. Ragless, W. Nevins, Mr. A. G. Strickland, Chief Horticulturist, was also present.

Apologies were received from Messrs. J. B. Randell, N. T. Hobbs, E. Brendler, B. Schapel, and R. James.

In the absence of the Secretary, Mr. W. H. Wright acted as minute secretary.

Correspondence was read and dealt with as follows:—The Minister of Agriculture regarding the size of bags used in the marketing of Peas, stating that he had been informed by the Wholesale Fruit Merchants of Adelaide, that they have information from the bag makers that to make a 56 lb. bag would result in a considerable waste of material, whilst the 50 lb. bag can be cut from available supplies of material without waste. If the 50 lb. bag is to be adopted the bag makers would require information early.

Mr. Strickland commented on the size of the bag and said that Mr.

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Heading had agreed that the 50 lb. bag would be suitable, and would like an opinion from the Association. Mr. Bishop asked whether the quote would be on the 50 lb. basis or on the bushel basis. It was stated that there would be little difference in either. Moved Mr. Bishop that this Association is in agreement with the 50 lb. bag. Seconded Mr. Esselbach. Carried.

The Chief Horticulturist, in a circular stated that the delivery to the markets of Apples and Pears carrying excessive spray residue has once again come to the notice of the Board of Health, and urging that growers and packers ensure that no fruit showing visible spray residue is delivered for sale in the markets. If each individual was to realise his responsibility in this regard, he would help to avert the trouble which must arise if spray marked fruit continues to appear in the markets. Mr. Strickland stated to the meeting that the circular had been sent to packing stores only. Mr. Winser commented that quite a lot of spray had been showing on Apples.

Mr. Winser moved: "That Mr. Strickland be asked to give a short address on DDT at the next meeting. Members to be notified of same when notices are sent to them of the date of such meeting. Seconded Mr. H. N. Wicks. Carried. Mr. Strickland consented to give the address.

Discussion between members re washing or brushing as best method was indulged in. The manpower problem in connection with same was also discussed.

Mr. Strickland said that Inspectors would take samples of fruit showing any stain. Mr. Bishop moved that copies of the Circular be sent to the fruit growers. Seconded Mr. Pritchard. Carried.

The Hon. Secretary, Port Pirie Branch of the F.G. and M.G. Association wrote asking for advice on certain matters. One was the representation should be made to the merchants with regard to some allowance on Pea bags and fruit cases. Another matter was to approach the Prices Commissioner in regard to a higher price for Peas.

Mr. Bishop moved: "That the branch be notified of the policy of the Association, such as the demand for the bag or case to be returned to the grower and bags to be returned if application is made."

Discussion ensued amongst members as to what actually was the Association policy in regard to this matter, and finally the motion lapsed for want of a seconder.

Mr. Bishop moved: "That Mr. Stuart be asked to answer the letter and inform the branch of the usual procedure adopted by the Association and the ruling practice amongst growers in the market to-day." Seconded Mr. Wicks. Carried.

The Secretary to the Premier wrote regarding the question of the possibility of the Woods and Forest Department being able to assist the organisation with regard to the shortage of cases in the industry, and enclosing a report from the Conservator of Forests on the matter, which stated that the department would be unable to make cases available to the F.G. and M.G. Association without

(Continued on page 17.)

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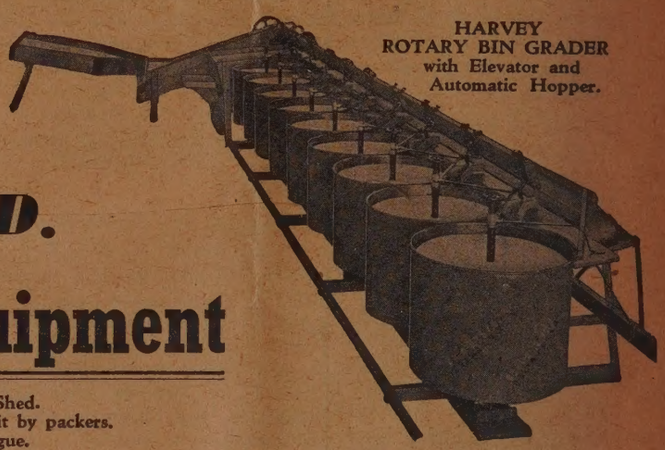

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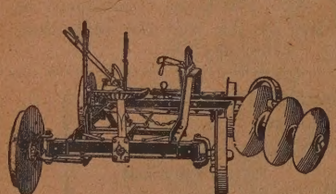

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Root Stocks for Deciduous and Citrus Fruits

APPLE STOCK SOUGHT TO REPLACE NORTHERN SPY.
PEAR AND PLUM STOCK INVESTIGATIONS.
RESEARCH WORK ON CITRUS.

Extracts from Report by Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

MUCH INTERESTING INFORMATION is included in the Annual Report, just to hand, from Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.

A wide range of subjects is covered. Here is portion of one section of the report which deals with

fruit investigations.

(1) **At Stanthorpe, Queensland:** The investigations at Stanthorpe concerned with Apple and Pear fruit stocks have been in progress for ten years. Effort has been devoted primarily to the problem of finding Apple rootstocks which give a better performance under Australian conditions than the commonly used Northern Spy, are easily propagated, and are immune to attack by woolly aphis. Attention has also been given to a search for improved rootstocks for Pears and Plums.

Altogether, some 20,000 rootstocks and 4,000 worked trees have been raised for various experiments. Seven experiment plots have been established in the form of Apple rootstock nursery trials in which the trees are planted from 3 feet apart to 4 feet in rows 5 feet distant, and two orchard trials with trees planted 20 feet by 20 feet. The area occupied by the experiment plots is approximately 9½ acres.

In the two nursery trials which have been established for eight years, the scion varieties, Jonathan and Granny Smith have given a far better performance on certain stocks than they have on Northern Spy. Two rootstocks in particular are especially promising. These are Merton 789 and Merton 793, both of which are immune to woolly aphis and propagate readily by stooling. The vegetative vigour of Jonathan on both of the Merton stocks is greater than on Northern Spy and 75 per cent. more fruit was produced by the trees on the Merton stocks. In the other nursery trials the scion varieties Jonathan, Delicious and Granny Smith are being tested on a range of Malling stocks, local selections, Merton stocks, and other types immune or resistant to woolly aphis.

In a pruning trial superimposed on one experiment, hard pruning has dwarfed the trees as compared with the Wickens non-tipping leader method. In order to ascertain whether any of the leading commercial scion varieties could be propagated satisfactorily on their own roots, propagation tests on some 30 varieties have been made, and the root systems of own-rooted trees carefully studied. The differences in rooting ability and in the nature of the root systems produced by different varieties were very great.

The investigations concerned with Pears aim to discover: (a) one or more rootstocks which can be propagated vegetatively, are compatible with the more important scion varieties, and give orchard trees of better performance than those now produced on seedling Pear stocks, and (b) whether any of the important scion varieties can be propagated satisfactorily on their own roots. Five clonal types were imported from East Malling, England, and rootstocks were selected in the Stanthorpe district and in Victoria. They have been subject to propagation trials and a number of them to compatibility tests. Four of the East Malling stocks propagate successfully by layering and have proven compatible with the leading scion varieties.

In a four-year trial, in which Williams Bon Chretien was grown on these four stocks and Pyrus Calleryana, the latter stock has given the most vigorous trees.

Some attention has also been given to the question of **rootstocks for Plums,** several types having been selected in the Stanthorpe area; clonal types were imported from England and propagation tests have been made on these various types. During the course of the work, several mineral deficiency diseases have become evident, their nature being diagnosed by appropriate experiments and control measures successfully applied.

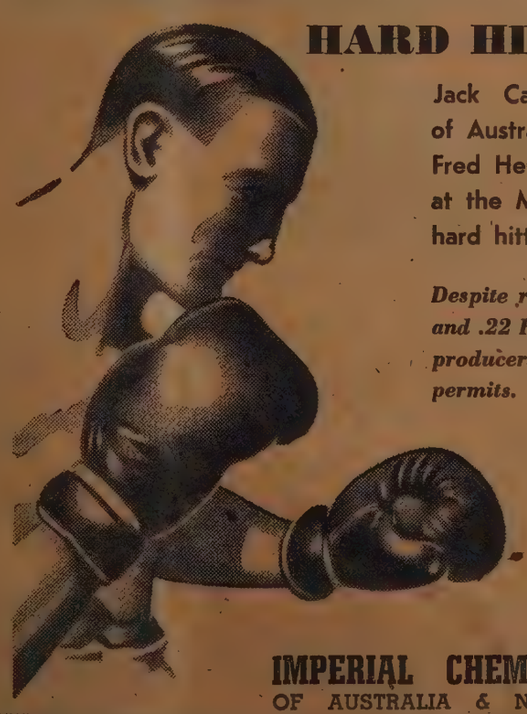
(2) **In Tasmania:** The investigation of physiological diseases of Apples in the field, and disorders following storage, has been further curtailed, and all experiments on fresh Apple problems with few exceptions are in abeyance. The officer responsible for these studies has been engaged on war emergency work concerned with the production of dehydrated Apples and vegetables, and the examination of processed foodstuffs designed for use by the Services. This work is being carried out on behalf of the Department of Commerce and Agriculture.

The work on the "cork" of Pears and "dimple" of Granny Smith and Cleopatra Apples, and tree dieback has been confined to observations on existing plots and nothing has appeared to modify previous conclusions. Experiments on the wax coating of Apples were restricted to a comparative test of a commercial preparation. Tests on storage disorders have been made on the fruit from two plots in order to preserve the continuity of the studies concerning the relation of storage disorders to climatic and crop factors. Other plots have been maintained on a purely observational basis.

Tests With Citrus.

(3) **At Griffith (N.S.W.):** Investigations at the Griffith Research Station have been continued on root stocks and shoot and root growth of citrus. Eighty-three rootstock types selected from old trees of outstanding vigor and performance in the local irrigation areas have been collected and nursery stock raised from root cuttings. The collection of imported stock has been increased by the addition of a strain of Poncirus trifoliata from California and of a bitter Orange from Spain, which is reputed to be very resistant to root rot and suitable for heavy wet soil conditions. Three nursery trials of rootstock types are now established in which the vigour of growth of some 13 types is being compared.

Plants raised from rough Lemon seed from Norfolk Island which has been largely used by nurserymen for raising commercial citrus stocks ex-



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Jack Carroll, undefeated Welterweight champion of Australia, popular idol of boxing fans. Defeated Fred Henneberry in the greatest fight of his career at the Melbourne stadium in 1932. A tribute to a hard hitting Australian.

Despite restrictions, limited supplies of I.C.I. SHOTGUN and .22 RIMFIRE CARTRIDGES are available to primary producers for essential pest destruction subject to police permits. ALL AUSTRALIAN.

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hibited considerable variation in growth habit. Four main types were differentiated. An upright growing type appeared to develop a better root system than the others, but no difference in the growth of Valencias or Navels budded on the different types was apparent during two years' development.

The experiments concerned, in which declining trees were inarched with young rootstocks have not yielded any positive results. Where sick trees have been pruned back severely, less growth has been made than by untreated control trees. The survey method of recording tree health has been continued in the experiment plots at the Research Station, and project plots on growers' farms. Studies of the root development and distribution of citrus roots under various soil conditions have also been continued.

FERTILIZER NEEDS.

The Commonwealth Government has requisitioned the London Food Council, which, in conjunction with the Allied Food Board in Washington, allocates food and fertilizer supplies among the United Nations, for 1,000,000 tons of superphosphate for 1945-46.

Most of our supplies to-day come from Morocco and Algiers. Until the Pacific war our phosphate supplies came from Nauru and Ocean Islands. The half million tons of dirty grey-brown rubble and rock imported annually into Australia from these islands was largely responsible for the millions of tons of wheat, the half million tons of wool, and other products of Australian farms and pastures.

The extent to which we have failed to make good our demand for superphosphate since the loss of Nauru and Ocean Islands is shown by the fact that in 1938-39 we imported 16,008,437 cwt. of 22 per cent. phosphatic rock, whereas in 1942-43 importations had dropped to 4,503,569 cwt. of only 18 per cent. phosphatic rock.

PATENTS

George A. U'Ren
Patent Attorney
"OSBORNE HOUSE,"
397-399 Little Collins Street (adjoining Queen St.), MELBOURNE, C.1.

Boycott of Apples in Sydney

The Editor,
"Fruit World."

Sir,—In view of the number of misleading statements that have appeared in the Sydney press, the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries feels that you should be advised of the real position that existed in the Sydney Market since last Monday week.

The retailers have taken exception to the Prices Commissioner fixing the ceiling price of Apples at 27/- per case, and have also complained that a number of Apples packed in dump cases and mostly received from States other than N.S.W., contain less than 40 lb. net weight of fruit. Requests were make by them to the Prices Branch for some action to be taken, and when nothing was done, a boycott of Apples was declared by the N.S.W. Fruit Shopkeepers' Assn. commencing from Monday, April 9, 1945. This was carried out by a small section using intimidatory methods against retailers who wished to purchase, and in some instances cases were removed from lorries after they had been purchased. Pickets were also placed at the door of the selling floor of the Australian Apple and Pear Marketing Board, and at other places around the market.

This continued on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings, when the police took much firmer action, and warned those concerned that no intimidation must take place, and that no fruit must be removed from lorries after purchase, and this had the result of easing the position as from Wednesday morning.

The position further improved on Thursday, when a larger quantity of Apples was purchased and taken away from the markets.

Viewed dispassionately, the attempted boycott was most regrettable and could serve no useful purpose. It was aimed at the Commonwealth Prices Branch, but the sufferers were the consumers, who would be left without Apples, and the producers.

The agents continued to carry on their business in a lawful manner, and despite a fair amount of provocation, little trouble occurred. Some suburban carriers were weak enough to be influenced by the propaganda spread about, but the majority continued to conduct their business also in a lawful manner.

The boycott was eventually called off by the N.S.W. Fruit Shopkeepers when the Minister for Agriculture intimated that he was prepared to call a conference of all parties concerned.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. MACDERMOTT,
General Secretary, N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries.
Sydney, 18/4/45.

N.S.W. Growers Confer.

At a conference of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association held at Sydney, in mid-April, a resolution was carried protesting against the action of Sydney fruit retailers in setting themselves up as an authority to determine fruit prices.

Mr. A. G. Enticknap, M.L.A., said that if this occurred again, fruitgrowers might consider setting up their own co-operative selling organisations in Sydney and suburbs. There should be suburban markets as in Melbourne.

The President of the Association (Mr. W. B. Pascoe) said it would be in the interests of the public if the City Council would permit an increase in the number of fruit barrows.

Some Sidelights on the "Apple Ban."

There were some interesting sidelights on the abortive Apple "boycott" in the Sydney markets during April. The N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Association publicly affirmed that prices were not abnormal in view of the crop position. The N.S.W. Country Party supported the growers. The Assistant Prices Commissioner (Mr. McCarthy) visited the markets and said undue prominence was being given by retailers to the ceiling price of 27/- a case. This emphasis on the ceiling price was apparently intended to make the public believe that retailers' charges of 10d. per lb. for all Apples was justified. This price, continued Mr. McCarthy, was only justified when Apples were purchased at the top price—but only a small quantity was purchased at this figure.

A correspondent wrote to the Sydney daily press and stated he had no difficulty in buying excellent Rome Beauty Apples for 16/- a case—net weight 42 lb.—about 4½d. per lb.

"Cynic" writes: "During the recent so-called 'Apple ban' in Sydney, when some usually respectable men made themselves ridiculous, a certain newspaper, noted for its scare headlines and none too particular regard for the truth, and certainly no regard for balanced statements, quoted, in support of one its statements some figures from what was termed a 'reputable' paper. Thanks for the hint! There are some papers, then, which are 'reputable' and presumably some which are not reputable. I wonder in which category the scare headline paper classes itself?"

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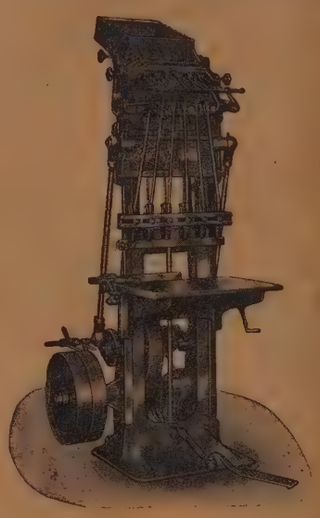
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N.S.W. GROWERS' ATTITUDE.

Prices Not Too High.

The following is a copy of a letter which the Chairman of the N.S.W. Apple and Pear Growers' Assn., Mr. W. B. Pascoe, sent to the "Sydney Morning Herald" on April 4, 1945.

Sir,—Recently the "S.M.H." has published articles dealing with Apple Prices on the Sydney market, and in particular, I wish to refer to this morning's issue, under the heading "Wholesale Price Too High."

My organisation is representative of all Apple growers in New South Wales, and I speak for this section of the industry only in voicing a protest against the suggestion that the present ceiling price is too high. It seems that because Apples are a popular variety of fruit, they become the target of all and sundry, yet we do not hear of complaints when Tomatoes are 10d. per lb. and even higher, and Oranges are selling at higher prices than pre-war. Why is it that the Apple grower is subjected to these attacks from time to time when it is a recognised fact that the cost of producing Apples is higher than any other fruit because of the constant spraying and prevalence of disease common to Apples.

Drought conditions in N.S.W. have resulted in the lowest yield for years, with only one-fifth of a normal crop being harvested. The present ceiling price will not give growers anywhere near the return they would have received had the crop been normal and yet, the same amount of labour has been expended in producing a smaller crop. In fact it has been more costly because of the necessity for employing additional labour to cart water.

N.S.W. growers have always approached the Prices Commissioner on the understanding that the average weight of Apples in a bushel case is approximately 40 lb. Test weighings carried out by officers of the Department of Agriculture revealed the following average weights for Apples from N.S.W. growers:—Granny Smith 42½ lb., Jonathan 41½ lb., Rome Beauty 41½ lb., Delicious 44½ lb.

Retailers purchasing these cases would show a reasonable profit at 10d. per lb.

The Proprietors of the following Australian Patent:—
No. 113908, dated 23rd February, 1940, entitled "Fruit peeling and fruit holding apparatus."
Mark Ewald and Henry Skog are prepared to dispose of the whole or part interest in the patent, or grant licenses on **royalty**, and invite tenders in respect of same in order to fulfil the full requirements of the trade and the public.
Address enquiries to Phillips, Ormonde, LePlastrier and Kelson, Fellows of the Institute of Patent Attorneys of Australia, Patent Attorneys, 419 Collins St., Melbourne.

Victoria

Seasonal Horticultural Conditions for April, 1945.

Melbourne (2/5/45).

The Department of Agriculture reports that except for late varieties, harvesting of the Apple crop was completed. Although the crop was lighter than normal, some good quality fruit was harvested. Yates Apples are of good size and colour. A start was made on the harvesting of this crop for inter-state markets. Some inland orchard districts have suffered severely from water shortage, and consequently the development of fruit buds has been affected. In other districts which have been adequately supplied with irrigation water, bud development in all deciduous fruits is good, promising satisfactory crops for next season. Because of the generally dry conditions, very little autumn ploughing has been done, and few growers are planting green manure crops.

Codling moth was difficult to control on light Apple crops. Woolly aphis and bryobia mite have been active in some districts. Apple jassids were in plague proportions in the Bacchus Marsh district. Harvesting of vine fruits is almost completed. Favourable drying weather has continued in the dried fruits districts. Waltham Cross Grapes are still being forwarded to the market, and are bringing good prices. The production of dried fruit was from 30-40 per cent. below normal. Much fruit required washing to remove the dust.

Some Navel Oranges in the Mildura area were ready for picking at the end of the month. Fruit is large, but shows many skin blemishes, due to wind and sand injuries received when the fruits were young. Navels will be lighter than Valencias, while Lemons will be very light. The estimate for the citrus crop in the Swan Hill district is as follows:—Navels, 98,000 cases; Valencias, 33,000; commons, 700; Lemons, 2,900; Grapefruit, 6,400; and Mandarins, 1,300. Some 10-12,000 citrus trees will be planted out in this district next spring. Scale has increased in all citrus districts, and spraying and fumigation is in progress for the control of this pest.

Vegetables.

Except in East Gippsland, dry conditions have prevailed throughout vegetable-growing areas. However, good yields of Carrots and Parsnips are now being obtained. Harvesting of vegetable seed crops is continuing. Yields of Peas for seed were below expectations, due to dry conditions early in the season. The most satisfactory Carrot seed crops have been produced in the Colac area, where aphis attack was less than in other parts of the State.

Pakenham Upper: Mr. W. H. Carne writes as follows under date April 6:

Although the Apple crop has been much lighter than usual in this district, the rainfall and weather conditions generally have been so favourable that the size and quality of the fruit, together with the prices ruling for good fruit have materially compensated for the light setting.

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T36-24

Illustration (left) shows McCormick-Deering Farmall-H tractor at work with a GL-70 four-furrow tractor disc plough... The plough is one of a wide range built at International Harvester's modern farm equipment works at Geelong, where production is in full swing on many entirely new types of food-producing equipment. (Below) View of McCormick-Deering W-9 Standard tractor.

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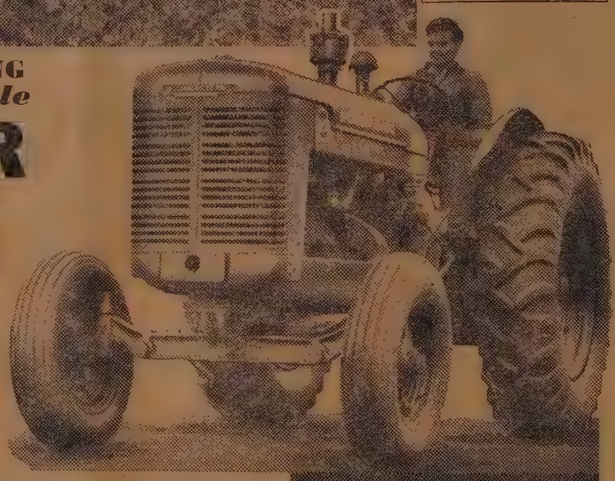

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FARM EQUIPMENT

The condition of the trees and development of fruit buds for next year have also benefited from the season. The rainfall registration since the beginning of the year to date has been nearly nine inches, and evenly distributed.

Yates, which are largely grown in this district are well grown, and will be of very fine quality. Delicious, Romes, and Granny Smith were very light. Statesman good to heavy. Grub has been somewhat in evidence, but, considering the light crop, not so bad as might have been expected. Several growers tried out Cling Spray on their Jonathans this season, to prevent dropping, and were well satisfied with results.

NEW POTATO VARIETIES.

Interesting Tests in N.S.W.

A new Potato variety, Aussie, produced by Mr. A. H. Price, of Goulburn, N.S.W., showed up very well in field tests recently, according to a report by Mr. G. T. Dawson, Senior Agricultural Instructor, N.S.W. Dept. of Agric. Another new variety raised by Mr. Price is named Mainguy. When the crops were dug in the middle of November last the following were the results per acre—Aussie 11 tons 12 cwt., Katahdin 10 tons 8 cwt., Mainguy 9 tons 12 cwt., Factor 8 tons.

The report states that Aussie matures earlier than Katahdin or Mainguy. It is a round-shaped red Potato, good sized and of nice appearance. Katahdin and Mainguy are white-skinned and of similar type. The variety Factor, now largely grown in many parts of N.S.W., has not shown yield favourable in comparison with new varieties.

N.S.W. CO-OPERATIVE FARM MECHANISATION.

Excellent work is being done in N.S.W. by the Farm Mechanisation Scheme, which was introduced last year as a means of increasing dairy production. This scheme had proved an immense success in England, and under it the area devoted to cultivation rose by 50 per cent., despite great manpower difficulties.

The scheme in N.S.W. will make available to co-operative dairying societies and rural co-operatives all information possible on the effective operation of mechanical aids to cultivation and conservation, and it is expected that the scheme will gain even better results in the near future.

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Agreement Between C.O.D. and Sydney and Melbourne Agents.

No Canvassing for Consignments :: Sales by Weight Only.

AN AGREEMENT covering methods of selling Beans and Peas has been concluded between the Committee of Direction of Fruit Marketing, Brisbane, and the Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries, Sydney, and at the time this report was prepared an agreement on practically the same terms was being concluded with a similar Chamber in Melbourne.

The agreement was signed by the C.O.D. on behalf of Queensland Bean growers (other than those of the Granite Belt) and the N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries (referred to as the Chamber) on behalf of its members who signed the needed approval (referred to as the Agent). A summary of the agreement is as follows:—

1. The C.O.D. agree to place the name of the Agent on a list to be known as the "List of Accredited N.S.W. Agents for the sale of Beans and/or Peas."

2. The Agent shall not permit any person on his behalf to enter into any of the aforementioned districts, to solicit or purchase consignments of Beans and/or Peas during the period commencing April 30, 1945, and terminating October 31, 1945.

3. The Agent agrees to declare in writing to the C.O.D. and the Chamber the name and address of each representative before any such representative commences to solicit consignments on behalf of the Agent, and the Agent further agrees to forfeit all rights and privileges of transport under this Agreement should he employ any canvasser except those to whose appointment as canvassers the C.O.D. and the Chamber shall have previously approved in writing.

4. The Agent agrees not to pay a representative living within the area of the Agreement on a per case, or weight basis.

5. The C.O.D. and the Chamber agree to police Clauses 2, 3 and 4, and to report to the Committee any information obtained in regard to any contravention of the Agreement.

6. The Agent shall sell all Beans and/or Peas consigned to the Agent for any person or persons in Queensland by weight only.

7. The Agent shall within four hours of the opening sale of the first available market, after the receipt at the Agent's premises of any Beans and/or Peas which on being opened up shall be found or considered to be faulty request a Representative of the C.O.D. concerned to inspect such consignments.

8. The Agent agrees NOT to send price telegrams to any grower unless specifically requested so to do by such grower in writing, in which case the charge of such telegram will be a direct charge against the grower concerned.

9. The Agent agrees that he will not under any circumstances circulate or cause to be circulated amongst growers fictitious prices of his realisation for Beans and/or Peas, and further agrees that in the event of a complaint alleging the circulation of fictitious prices being made in writing by any grower or by the C.O.D., he will allow the representative of the C.O.D. and/or the Chamber to inspect his books in connection therewith.

10. The Agent agrees, on a complaint in writing by any grower in connection with any consignment of Beans and/or Peas, to allow a Representative of the C.O.D. and the Chamber to inspect his books in connection therewith.

11. The Agent agrees not to actively support any bulk loading transport service other than that controlled by the C.O.D. from Queensland.

12. The C.O.D. agrees to supply to the Agent on request complete lists of growers of Beans and/or Peas in the various districts who are members of the C.O.D.

13. The C.O.D. agrees to make available to growers at all loading centres, stencils of all accredited Agents provided such stencils have been supplied to them by the Agents.

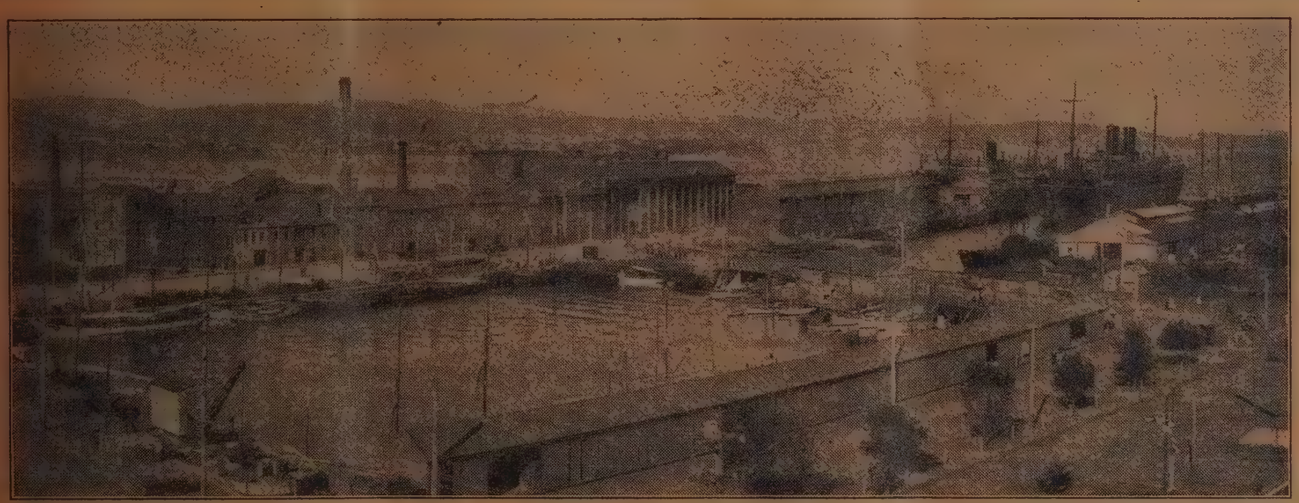
14. The C.O.D. agrees to take all possible steps to prevent Beans and/or Peas being transhipped to Sydney by bulk loading organisations other than its own.

15. The Agent agrees to take prompt delivery of produce consigned to him. If an Agent is responsible for any consignment being left in trucks in Darling Harbour, or Newcastle, or Honeysuckle, the C.O.D. shall have the right to deliver such consignment to his store or stands. If acceptance of delivery is then refused, the consignment may be diverted by the C.O.D. to another Agent on the Accredited List.

16. When an Agent, inclusive of the C.O.D., is charged with committing a breach of this Agreement, his case shall be immediately dealt with by a Committee of five, two of whom shall be nominated by the C.O.D., and two by the Chamber, with an independent Chairman, and three of whom shall form a quorum. The decision of this Committee shall be final.

17. When an Agent has been removed from the List, the Committee shall have power to fix the term before which his name shall not be considered for restoration to the List, and the C.O.D. and the Chamber agree if so requested by the Committee to withhold the name of such Agent from the next succeeding Agreement if any.

18. Should any Agent who is a signatory to this Agreement voluntarily terminate his membership of the Chamber, or in the event of the Council of the Chamber suspending such member from membership for any reason other than for breaches of the conditions of this Agreement, such Agent shall have the right to receive consignments for the balance of the term covered by this Agreement provided that he agrees to and does honour the conditions of the Agreement in the same manner as pertained prior to the Chamber membership of such Agent having been terminated.



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"WATERY WOUND ROT" OF POTATOES.

"Watery Wound Rot" is more or less restricted to soils rich in organic matter, such as are found in the Koowee-rup district and parts of the Western District of Victoria.

The disease is caused by a fungus and the infection occurs by way of an injury. Plant Research Officers of the Victorian Department of Agriculture point out that the dark brown tissue surrounding the infection spot is soft to the touch, the skin readily separates from the underlying rotted tissue, and an exudation of a brown watery fluid occurs. The disease progresses rapidly and a Potato may completely decay in one or two days after becoming infected.

The most important control measure is a rotation of four to six years. This is aimed at starving the fungus out of the soil. Crops which may be safely included in the rotation are pasture, oats, onions, maize, peas. Diseased Potatoes should be collected and destroyed, preferably by burning or by burying deeply in an area not used for Potatoes.

Special care in digging and bagging is necessary in districts where the trouble is known to occur, and the following recommendation will assist in reducing the degree of infection:—

Confine digging to cool weather or the cooler parts of the day as disease development is most rapid when the temperature is high.

Less disease occurs when Potatoes are dug during warm weather. If "short runs" are lifted and then "picked up" in preference to leaving the Potatoes on the hot soil for long periods.

Take care during digging to avoid injury and bag only the sound tubers.

Do not use loading hooks on bags of Potatoes grown in districts where the disease is known to occur.

APPROVED "SEED" POTATOES.

In order to supply the demand for good quality "seed" Potatoes brought about by war-time expansion of acreage and the increasing desire on the part of many farmers to plant only the best seed obtainable, the Victorian Department of Agriculture now carries out extensive inspections of Potato crops each season.

Crops of the main commercial varieties located in recognised seed-growing areas are inspected by officers of the Department in the field during the flowering period, and their value as seed is assessed according to the percentage of diseased and foreign plants present. Those crops which show no more than 8 per cent. diseased plants and/or 2 per cent. "strangers" are considered as suitable for seed purposes and are listed by the Department as "approved seed."

The standard set for approved seed this year represents an improvement on that operating last season. It is feasible to conjecture that in future years only crops grown from certified stock will be accepted for approved seed purposes.

It should be stressed that "approved" seed is not to be confused with "certified" seed. The latter, which conforms to a much higher standard of purity and freedom from disease, is marketed only in sealed bags carrying the official certification label of the Department of Agriculture. Approved seed is packed in bags branded "A seed," with no other distinguishing features.

Sales of approved seed Potatoes may be made by direct negotiation between grower and buyer, subject to permit issued by the Deputy Potato Controller, 370 Little Collins-street, Melbourne, or any Potato Inspector.

NEW POTATO DIGGER.

Regarded by Potato Control officials as a most valuable contribution to cheap production, an improved Potato gatherer and grader has been invented by a young South Australian airman.

Leading Aircraftman R. F. Sly, formerly a fitter with the railways, enlisted two years ago. The Commonwealth Government's anxiety to secure greatly increased Potato production without using increased manpower, set Sly a spare-time problem.

His plans attracted the attention of the Commonwealth Machinery Board, and Army Inventions Board, who obtained six months' special leave for the young airman.

Potato Controller Foster said: "The results have been well worthwhile. The machine digs, bags and grades Potatoes in one operation, with a capacity of five acres a day. Drawn by a tractor, with one man driving and two men handling, it does the work of other machines which require a team of fifteen to twenty men. The machine, remarkable for simplicity of principle and construction, costs no more than £200.

GROWERS—Consign Your Fruit and Vegetables to Agents who are Members of N.S.W. Chamber of Fruit and Vegetable Industries

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Buhl & Hacking.
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Martin, C. R.
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Mason, J. J.
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Mitchell & Lawless.
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Sydney Banana Co.
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Wilson & Croucher
Wing Chong & Co.
Wing On & Co.
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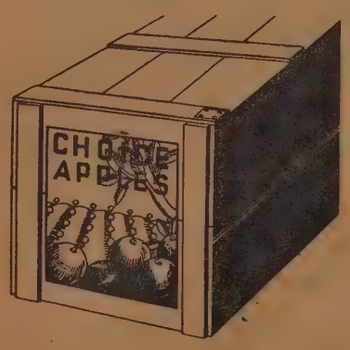

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S.A. FRUITGROWERS & MARKET GARDENERS' ASSOCIATION.

(Continued from page 10.)

seriously failing in its commitments to other sections of the industry. Other mills had been approached and had stated that they could supply cases in various quantities and at different prices.

Mr. Bishop reported that 20,000 cases had arrived from the Sapfor Milling Co., and another 40,000 would arrive during the season. The society also had a stock of 3,000 hardwood cases, which were available to the growers now. They were of excellent quality.

Letters from the Secretary of the Murray Citrus Growers' Co-operation enclosing a copy of a letter sent to the members and secretaries of their Association relative to 1945 ceiling prices and factory quotas which were discussed with officers of Food Control and Prices Branch.

Sectional and Branch Reports.

Mr. Pfeiffer asked permission to allow Mr. Clisby to report on a meeting of the Onkaparinga Potato branch held on 25/3/45 before the Sectional and branch reports were submitted. The chairman consented.

Mr. Clisby said that there had been a lot of immature digging of Potatoes, and quite a lot had been disposed of before they were mature. Some have marketed a lot of their crop, whilst others have allowed the crop to mature, and it has been attacked by grubs, and will not be able to market the crop. He said that the system of allotting quotas should be altered, as under the present system the figures would be inflated on account of the early estimate of the crop. There is growing discontent amongst growers about how Potatoes are marketed. He suggested that the quota should begin from April 1, and whatever quota is required should be fixed on a percentage basis on acreage. He also suggested an impartial body like the Advisory Committee should instruct distribution centre to inform each grower what would be required for April, May, etc., so that delivery would be spread over a period of six months, which would be fair to all growers.

Mr. Clisby moved: "That this Association request that the Advisory Committee be granted executive powers in fixing quotas and handling crop, and that quotas commence on April 1." Seconded Mr. Pfeiffer.

Messrs. Bishop and Strickland also spoke on the matter and suggested the Onkaparinga Potato Branch meet the Advisory Committee and discuss the matter.

The motion was then withdrawn and Mr. Pritchard moved: "That this meeting recommends that the Onkaparinga Potato Branch meet the Advisory Committee and discuss the matter of quota. Seconded Mr. Ind. Carried.

Society: Mr. Bishop reported that business was quite satisfactory. The new building was progressing favourably, and permission has been asked for to get the job finished as soon as possible. He hoped the society would be able to hold the next annual meeting in the building.

Apple and Pear Section: Mr. Winser reported that growers were averse to deliver Apples from cold stores and that prices were still holding on. Everything was going along satisfactorily.

Potato Section: Mr. Pfeiffer supported earlier remarks where dissatisfaction was expressed with quota system. He also stated that digging had commenced.

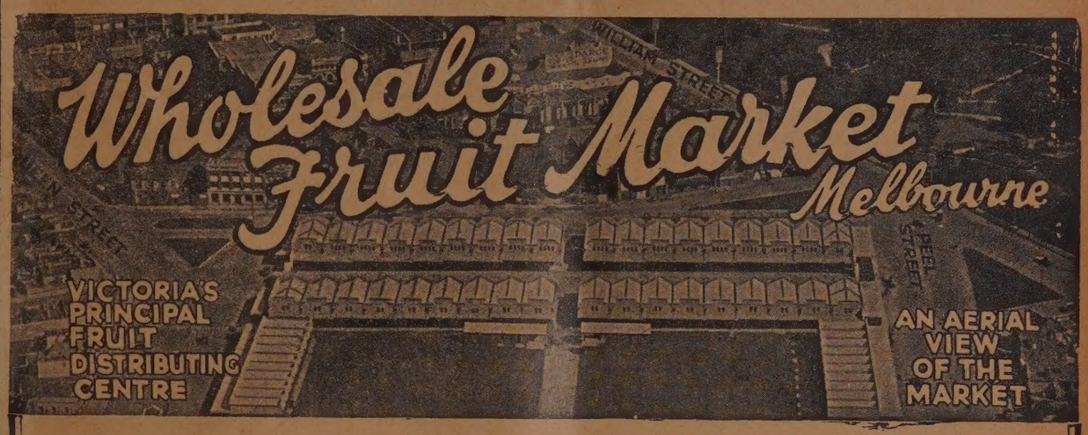
General Business.

Mr. Bishop stated that the S.A. Chamber of Rural Industries and the Association were at present keenly interested in the forming of a Postwar Committee which the Association thought they should have representation on, but had not been invited to nominate any members up to date. He suggested that a small committee be appointed to confer with the Chamber of Rural Industries on the matter. Members present stated that such a committee had already been formed.

Mr. Winser moved: "That the Committee that has been appointed to meet the Chamber of Rural Industries, meet that body on the return to Mr. Stuart." Seconded Mr. Esselbach. Carried.

Mr. Ind reported that he had attended several meetings at the St. Peters Town Hall in connection with the scheme to lock the Torrens. The meeting had asked the Premier to estimate the cost of the scheme, which he had said would be £200,000. On an estimate submitted by the Chief Engineer and Surveyor, the St. Peters Council, the cost would be £150,000. In the latter case there would not be so many locks, consequently the costs would be reduced. Mr. Ind stated that the Government should meet all the costs as it was not a Council matter at all. The Premier intended to view the different sites where locks were proposed, and the meeting decided to hold the matter in abeyance until a reply had been received from the Premier.

Citrus Section: Mr. Esselbach reported that early crops were coming in, and members were interested in new prices.



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Market Notes and Prices

Sydney (2/5/45).

The State Fruit Marketing Bureau reports as follows:—

Fruit (City Municipal Markets).

Demand for Apples generally was satisfactory, although some lines of Jonathans that had reached an overmature stage proved slow of sale. Values of Tasmanian Jonathans, Geeveston Fannies and small sizes of Delicious were lower. Other Tasmanian varieties comprised Scarlet Pearmain, Crofton and Democrat, and rates for these were unaltered. Both local and Victorian Granny Smiths were keenly sought and fancy grades realised the maximum price of 27/- per bushel. Small consignments of Rome Beauties from local and interstate sources were available, and best sizes sold at 27/-. Further Victorian supplies of Jonathans were received and values generally ranged from 20/- to 25/-, with occasional packs to 27/- per case.

The fairly large consignments of Victorian Pears on offer consisted principally of Packham's Triumph and Beurre Bosc, although small quantities of other varieties were included. Request was moderate and rates for choice, green fruit showed only slight variations; ripe lines, however, were sold at lower levels. Only small quantities of Packham's Triumph, Winter Cole and Beurre Bosc were received from local centres. For best sizes of Packham's and Winter Coles, up to 28/- was realised. Very small Winter Coles, however, were offered at as low as 10/- per bushel.

Current prices were:—Apples: New South Wales — Granny Smith, fancy 27/-; Delicious, 27/- (nominal), Rome Beauty, 20/- to 27/-; Tasmanian—Jonathan, fancy 16/- to 24/-, good 14/- to 22/-; Delicious, 20/- to 27/-; Scarlet Pearmain, 16/- to 25/-; Geeveston Fanny, 16/- to 20/-; Democrat, 20/-; Crofton, 22/- to 25/-; Interstate—Cleopatra, 20/ to 25/-; Rome Beauty, 20/- to 25/-, few 27/-; Victorian—Jonathan, 20/- to 25/-, few higher, faulty lines lower. Pears: New South Wales — Packham's Triumph, 20/- to 26/-, specials to 28/-; Winter Cole, 20/- to 28/-, very small sizes from 10/-, Beurre Bosc, 18/- to 24/-; Victorian—Packham's Triumph 20/- to 25/-, specials higher; Beurre Bosc, 16/- to 22/-; Tasmanian—Glou Morceau, 16/- to 22/-; Josephine, 22/-; Winter Cole, 20/- to 27/-; Oranges: Navel — Coastal—to 16/-; Lemons: Coastal, 12/- to 20/- per bushel case. Grapes: Cornichon, 8/- to 12/-, few higher; Doradillo, 6/- to 10/-; Waltham Cross, 14/- to 18/-, few higher; Mandarins: Imperial, 12/6; Passionfruit, 18/- to 25/-, few specials higher, inferior lower; Persimmons, 4/- to 10/-; Custard Apples, 5/- to 10/-; Avocados, 6/- to 20/- per half case. Bananas, 7d. per lb. (weight 80 to 96 lb. per case). Papaws, 20/- to 35/-; Pineapples, 21/3, faulty packs lower, per tropical case. Honey Dews, 6/- to 10/-, inferior lower, per crate.

Vegetables.

Ruling rates:—Peas, 4/- to 7/-, early sales 8/-, few specials higher, inferior lower; Beans, 2/- to 6/-, early sales of extra choice, 8/- per bushel; Cabbages, 2/- to 6/-, specials to 8/-; Cauliflowers, 4/- to 12/-, extra choice large "heads," 14/-, few higher; Marrows, 4/- to 6/- per dozen; Lettuce, 8/- to 14/-, few 16/- per case; Carrots, 2/6 to 5/- per dozen bunches, 10/- to 18/-, inferior lower, few higher, per cwt; Parsnips, 3/- to 5/- per dozen bunches, 16/- to 22/- per cwt.; Rhubarb, 6/- to 9/-; Spinach, 2/- to 3/-, few higher; Eschalots, 2/6 to 3/-; Mint, 6/-; Parsley, 12/- to 18/-; Beetroot, 2/- to 4/-; Celery (local), 5/- to 12/- per dozen bunches, (South Australian) to 26/- per crate; Tomatoes (local), 3/- to 10/-, few specials to 12/-, (inland) 2/- to 7/-, occasional sales higher, per half case; Potatoes, 1st grade, 7/10½; Onions (Victorian), Brown, 18/- to 22/-; Swedes, 8/- to 10/-, inferior lower; Pumpkins, 8/- to 12/- per cwt.

VICTORIA.

Melbourne (2/5/45).

Vegetables.

Beans, French, 12/- to 36/- 50 lb.; Beetroot, 8d. to 9d. doz., max. 17/- cwt.; Beet, Silver, 3/- to 4/- doz.; Cabbages, 5/- to 9/- doz.; Carrots, 3/- to 4/6 doz. bunches, max. 21/- cwt. without tops, 16/- cwt. with tops; Cauliflowers, 8/- to 18/- doz.; Celery, 4/- to 8/- doz.; do., Adelaide, 18/- to 25/- double case; Cucumbers, 2/- to 3/- doz.; Garlic, 1/3 to 1/6 lb.; Horseradish, 1/- to 1/3 bundle; Leek, 3/6 to 5/- doz. bunches; Lettuce, 10/- to 16/- case, few to 20/-; Mint, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; Melons, Citron, 6/- to 15/- doz.; do. Water, 12/- to 24/- doz.; Onions, Green, 2/- to 2/6 doz. bunches; Parsley, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; Parsnips, 3/- to 4/6 doz. bunches, max. 23/- cwt. without tops, 18/- cwt. with tops; Peas, 8/- to 15/- 50 lb., few to 20/-; Potatoes, 10/- to 10/6 bag; Pumpkins, 6/- to 24/- doz., to 25/6 cwt. (max.); Radish, 2/- to 2/6 doz. bunches; Rhubarb, 3/- to 4/- doz. bunches; Spinach, 4/- to 6/- doz. bunches; Sprouts, 8/- to 10/- doz. lb.; Tomatoes, 8/- to 15/- case, few to 18/-; Turnips, 2/- to 3/- doz. bunches; do., Swede, 10/- to 14/- bag; do., 2/6 to 3/- doz. bunches; Vegetable Marrows, 3/- to 4/- doz.

Fruit (Bushel case, unless stated).

Apples, eating, 12/- to 22/-; few Delicious to 25/-; do., cooking, 10/- to 16/-, few Granny Smith to 20/-; Figs, 10/- to 16/-, few to 20/-; Grapes, 15/- to 25/-, few to 30/-; Oranges, Navel and Valencias, to 16/6 (max.); Lemons, 18/- to 20/- (max.); Raspberries, 1/- to 1/3 punnet; Strawberries, 1/6 to 3/- punnet; Peaches, 12/- to 20/-; Pears, dessert, Packhams, 12/- to 18/-, few to 20/-; Pears, culinary, 10/- to 15/-; Papaws, 25/- to 35/- double case; Quinces, 4/- to 8/-; Bananas (green), 45/- to 55/- double case, few to 60/-, 7½d. lb. (max.); Pineapples, to 23/9 double case (max.); Passionfruit, 25/- to 35/- half case; Cantaloups, 6/- to 12/-; green ginger, 1/6 lb.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Adelaide (30/4/45).

The S.A. Fruitgrowers' and Market Gardeners' Assn. report as follows:—

Heavy supplies of Peas were offering on Monday's market, but the demand was good and the carry-over was less than on Friday. Beans sold well with a slightly firmer tendency. Cabbages and Cauliflowers were well picked up. Beet was short and other lines of bunch vegetables cleared freely. Lettuces and Rhubarb were in short supply with prices firmer. The demand for Celery was good. Apples and Pears are selling well. Prices were as follow:—

Vegetables: Beans (French), 5/- to 6/- doz. lb.; Beetroot, 2/6 doz. bches.; Brussels Sprouts, 8/- doz. lb.; Cabbages, large 8/-, medium 6/-, small 4/- doz.; Carrots, 3/- doz. bches.; Cauliflowers, large 8/-, medium 6/-, small 4/- doz.; Celery, 6/- doz. heads; Cucumbers, 2/- doz.; Leeks, 4/- doz.; Lettuces, 3/- doz.; Onions, Brown, 13/- to 15/ cwt.; Parsnips, 4/- doz. bches.; Peas, 10/- bush.; Potatoes, new, 8/1½ doz. lb.; Rhubarb, Cherry, 3/- doz. lb.; Tomatoes, Firsts, 8/- short, ½ case; Trombones, 9/4 cwt.; Turnips, 2/6 doz. bches.; Swede, 3/- doz. bches.; Triambles, 9/4 cwt.

Fruit: Bananas, ripe, 8d. per lb.; Pineapples, 5½d. per lb.; Passionfruit, 2/6 to 3/6 doz.; Melons, Pie, 9/4 cwt.; Apples — Delicious, 20/-; Granny Smith, 20/-; Jonathans, up to 3in., 19/-; Cleos., 15/-; Buncombe, 14/-; Romes, up to 3½in. 14/-, larger 12/-; London Pippin, 12/-; Democrat, large, 12/-; Statesman, up to 2¾in. 16/-; cookers, 12/-. Green Pears—Packham, 18/; Lemon Bergamot, 16/-; Josephine, 16/-; B. Bosc, 11/-; Howell, 11/-; Glou Morceau, 11/-. The above prices include cost of case, 1/-.

N.S.W. FRUIT AND VEGETABLE INDUSTRY.

Trade Picnic.

The first annual picnic of the Sydney fruit and vegetable trade was held at National Park on 18th April. Despite the fact that the organisers were handicapped by the Apple boycott, which caused a certain amount of bad feeling, the picnic was a great success. The fruit and vegetable markets were closed for the day: over 1,000 people were present.

Races and all kinds of sporting events were carried out, and the tug o' war between growers, retailers, carriers and wholesalers resulted in a win for the growers after very close contests.

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ESTABLISHED 1894

Fruit Commission Agent

SHIPPING NO. 56

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References:—Bank of N.S.W., Haymarket, Sydney, and Growers throughout Australia.

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Poultry Notes

CLEANING AND DISINFECTION OF POULTRY BUILDINGS.

All buildings in which poultry are housed should be subjected regularly to the most thorough cleaning and disinfection. All the litter and loose dirt should be removed, the house (floors, walls, and ceiling) given a thorough sweeping and cleaning out, and all parts of the house well sprayed with a good disinfectant.

Poultry experts of the Victorian Department of Agriculture point out that, in addition to a regular weekly cleaning of pens, a good general clean-up should be carried out every three months.

Food and water vessels and systems should be cleaned and disinfected regularly. On farms where automatic water systems have been installed, the pipes should be cleaned out with a suction pump or flushed through with the aid of pressure from the water supply. It is an advantage to pass a hot soda solution through the pipes, as this helps to remove any decomposing matter.

Before the incubator season commences, incubators, brooders, and brooder houses also should be thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Control of red mite is important. Although not hard to kill, great difficulty is often experienced in getting at their hiding places, so that sheds and perches should be as free from cracks and crevices as possible. The perches can be painted with tar to fill up any cracks, and the joinings treated at intervals with a good disinfectant. For the treatment of lice on the birds, the dust bath should always be kept in order. Individual birds badly infested with body vermin may be dusted with a good insect powder.

Home Notes

SAVING BUTTER.

Make the butter ration go further by using recipes which do not need fat.

Gingerbread Without Fat: Four oz. flour; 3 oz. fine oatmeal; 2 level teaspoons ground ginger; 2 level teaspoons mixed spice; 2 oz. sugar; ½ pint milk; 3 tablespoons treacle or syrup; 1 level teaspoon bicarbonate soda.

Mix the flour and oatmeal in a basin and add ginger, spice and sugar. Heat the milk and treacle in a pan and bring to the boil. Add the soda and stir until dissolved. Pour into the dry ingredients and mix quickly and thoroughly. Turn into a well-greased shallow tin and bake in a moderate oven for about 50 minutes.

Scones Without Fat: Eight oz. flour; ½ teaspoon salt; 4 level teaspoons baking powder; milk to mix.

Blend dry ingredients well and mix to a soft dough with milk. Roll out ½ inch thick, cut into rounds and bake in hot oven for 10-15 minutes. These should be eaten hot.

"There must be greater social equity between town and country workers if the drain of young life from the land is to cease. The land is crying out for the labour of young, strong, healthy, vigorous men."—Mr. E. A. Gough, President British Agricultural Workers.

VITAMIN C AND NERVE GROWTH

ABOUT TWELVE YEARS AGO, Dr. G. H. Bourne, who was then working in Australia, suggested a method for the microscopic demonstration of vitamin C in animal tissues. His method depends on the fact that vitamin C, in certain conditions, rapidly breaks down silver nitrate, with the production of a deposit of silver. The silver is in the form of black granules, which can be quite easily seen under the microscope.

The technique was developed, by Bourne himself and by Giroud and his colleagues working in Paris, and applied to a wide variety of tissues. More recently, Barnett and Bourne, working at Oxford, have studied the vitamin C of the growing tissues of the embryo chick. It was already known that vitamin C is important for the growth of some tissues. For instance, it plays a part in the growth of bone, and it is essential for the satisfactory healing of flesh wounds. Barnett and Bourne were able to observe the presence of vitamin C in the bone matrix as it was being laid down, and in other tissues where, from previous work, it might be expected to be. But they also found it in a hitherto unsuspected place.

A developing nerve cell in the brain or spinal cord is at first a rounded structure; later it develops fine processes, many which branch. Some nerve cells have one main process, larger than the rest and often very long; this is called the axon. In the brain and spinal cord of the chick embryo, after treatment with silver nitrate, the axons, as they grew out from the nerve cells, were seen to be full of black granules. These of course indicated the presence of vitamin C. Some vitamin C was also detected in the main part of many of the nerve cells, but not (apparently) so much.

This observation suggests that vitamin C may play an important part in the development of the nervous system, just as it does in bone growth, and that a study of the effect of vitamin C deficiency on the nervous system would be worth making. — "Monthly Science Notes."

Teach me to win when I may,
If I may not win, then above all
I pray, make me a good loser.

:: .:: ::

A wise man changes his mind sometimes, a fool never.

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"APPLE MISSION."

"Apple Mission" is the name by which thousands of British, American and Allies' seamen remember the Fremantle branch of the Missions to Seamen. Every ship (according to "The P.L.A. Monthly"), that has arrived at the Port of Fremantle since the war began has been met by the Mission lorry loaded for free distribution to the officers and crew, with Apples—or, according to the season, Oranges, Peaches or Grapes. Something like a quarter of a million pounds of Apples a year have been distributed, says the Rev. J. W. Clift, the newly-appointed senior chaplain to the Port of London Mission to Seamen, who has returned to England after fifteen years in Australia. Starting almost from scratch, Mr. Clift (with 30/- in his pocket) left behind him in Australia lasting memorials of his work. Besides a Seamen's Church and Institute for British Seamen, valued at £10,000, he was instrumental in building a unique Eastern Seamen's Club, costing £8,000, which has earned the commendation of the highest authorities, both Indian and Chinese.

Another wartime service of the Mission has been the provision of temporary homes with local families, for thousands of naval officers and ratings serving in Australian and Pacific waters. Traditional Australian hospitality is excelling itself.

— SPECIAL NOTICE TO FRUITGROWERS —

In response to numerous requests from growers for information as to who are members of the
VICTORIAN CHAMBER OF FRUIT & VEGETABLE INDUSTRIES,
the following list is given. All are members of the above Association, and are registered firms carrying on business in the WHOLESALE FRUIT MARKET, MELBOURNE. (All Members under Fidelity Bond)
Stand Numbers are as indicated in Parentheses.

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Correspondence is invited by the Association.
Office: 21 Wholesale Fruit Market, Queen St., Melbourne.
Phone: F 4866.

Frozen Foods for the Home

NEW DEVELOPMENTS OF GREAT INTEREST TO FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PRODUCERS.

BIG "FROZEN FOOD" INDUSTRY CERTAIN AFTER WAR.

WITH THE COMING of the American forces to Australia, many new ideas were introduced, new types of machinery for primary and secondary industries, also new ideas for the home.

The quick freezing of fruit, vegetables and other products, and the storing of these in lockers has long been operating in U.S.A.

As Australians are now interested in this subject, in relation to post-war developments, the following information from an American Exchange will be appreciated by readers. Mr. P. W. Dempsey, of Waltham, Massachusetts, wrote as follows in "Horticulture."

Freezing is the only method of preserving food that retains substantially the garden-fresh flavour, colour, texture and nutritive value. The preparation of various foods for freezing is a relatively simple procedure, and anyone who follows the directions can produce excellent frozen foods in an ordinary home freezing cabinet or locker in a freezing plant.

In July I purchased a chest of 12 cubic feet capacity and had it put in my basement. My wife and I then had the time of our lives preparing the surplus products from our garden, as well as some purchased material. We bought a number of haddock at 12 cents a pound and, with two other families, purchased a whole swordfish at a little over 30 cents a pound.

Soon our freezer was full and we still had a lot of food to store. So we purchased another and fancier freezer cabinet, one having a little more than five cubic feet capacity, which we put in the kitchen. This was soon filled and the overflow taken to a nearby ice company for storage.

We froze more than a dozen different vegetables, five fruits, various meats, chickens, butter, sausage, steaks and some cooked dishes. We also use the freezer to keep our bread fresh—the supply is renewed once a week—as well as to make ice cream whenever we want it.

Everything we did turned out extremely well. This year we are doing even more — more different foods and larger quantities.

There is no doubt in my mind that all of us will be freezing soon. **When the war is over the business will be one of the leading industries.** The making of freezer cabinets for the home, the establishment of locker storages in most communities, and the freezing and distribution of frozen foods will really be big business. Already, there is a concern in Greater Boston that delivers on order frozen foods from house to house on a regular schedule.

As I see it, the ideal set-up will be for the family to have a freezing cabinet in the home and a locker in a cold storage. The size of the home unit will depend upon the size of the family and availability of raw products, such as garden or farm. Undoubtedly, there will be combination freezer and storage cabinets — one compartment at zero, the other at 38 degrees—for the city apartment and home. Large refrigerators with freezing cabinets inside are already being installed on many farms.

Preparing Frozen Foods.

After removal from a freezing locker, foods may be kept for varying lengths of time, depending on how they are handled, according to a bulletin issued by the New Jersey agricultural experiment station. However, they should be kept frozen as long as possible.

Fruit should not be thawed until needed for serving, as the tissues usually break down quickly after thawing. Fruit for dessert purposes may be served immediately after thawing or even while there is still some frost in the product. If the fruit is allowed to thaw in the sealed package, it will not dry out or discolour as much as if it is thawed slightly and then turned out into an open dish to finish thawing. It is desirable to determine well ahead of time just when the fruit is to be served so that it will be in the proper condition at that time.

Vegetables may be cooked without being completely thawed, although they should be defrosted enough so that the frozen masses can be broken up when the vegetables are placed in the cooking vessels. Do not add water unless necessary. Frozen vegetables may be cooked in the same way as the fresh product, although the cooking time will be much less, usually about half that required for fresh vegetables. Corn on the cob should be thawed before being cooked.

WERNER REFRIGERATION SERVICE

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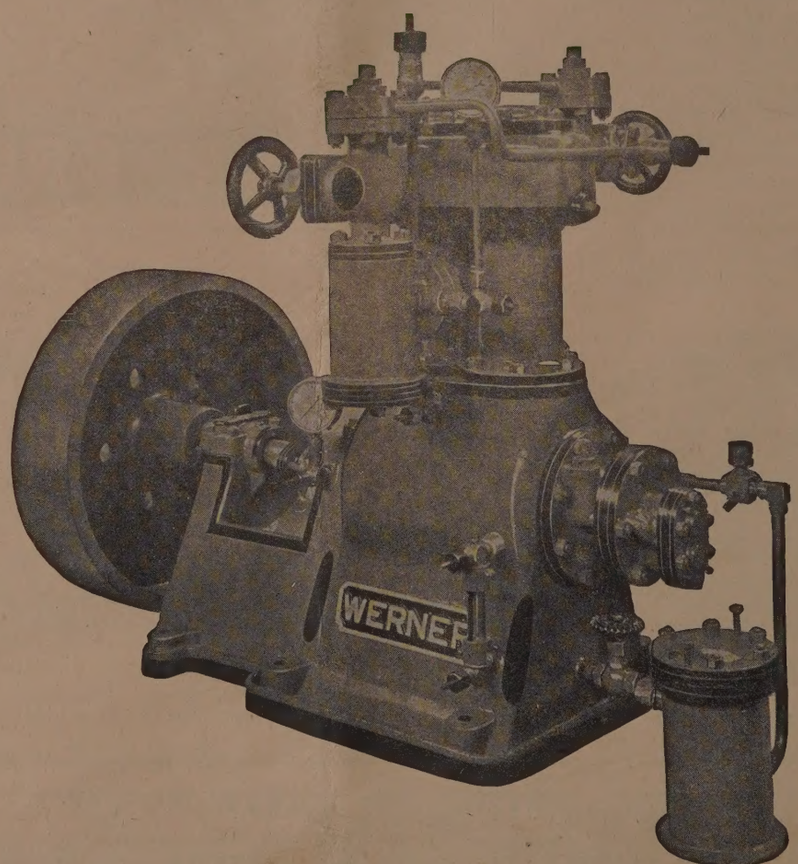

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RED CROSS ACTIVITIES.

Food Parcels Distributed in Germany.

The all-over picture in Germany at present is one of such extreme confusion that it is impossible to say with certainty any longer just where Australian prisoners of war are located, states the Australian Red Cross.

Food has been distributed to 18,000 British and American prisoners near Marienbad and Carlsbad in this southern area and some lorries are pushing further into Austria. Many thousands of men are still on the march and great difficulty has been experienced by drivers of the Red Cross lorries in locating them. The men are moving on secondary roads at a pace from 12 to 18 miles per day, and in considerable numbers. In future convoys will be preceded by an International Red Cross Delegate moving one day ahead by motor cycle or small car, who will locate the men and direct the lorries to them.

"SAVE THE FORESTS."

Vigorous activity is being displayed by the "Save the Forests" Committee in their endeavours to increase tree planting. A big tree planting campaign is planned for the coming winter. More particulars are obtainable from the Committee's office at 314 Collins-street, Melbourne.

Printed by the Horticultural Press Pty. Ltd., for the Fruit World Pty. Ltd., Registered Office 8-10 Orr Street, Melbourne, and at 439 Kent Street, Sydney